JPRS 79161 7 October 1981

Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

No. 250



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CONTENTS

HUMAN DISEASES

ANGOLA		
	Deplorable Health Conditions in Zaire Province (JORNAL DE ANGOLA, 10 Sep 81)	1
AUSTRA	LIA	
	Salmonella Poisoning Toll at 230 in Four States (Various sources, various dates)	2
	Suspect Salami Criticism of Central Funding Lack of National Controls Check on Food Additives, by Paul Chadwick	
	Briefs Immunization Lag	:
BANGLA	DESH	
	Editorial Speculates on 'Mysterious Jhinjhina' (Editorial; THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 28 Aug 81)	(
	Briefs Satkhira 'Jhinjhina' Death Cholera Deaths Reported	7
BELIZE		
	Briefs Conjunctivitis Epidemic	8

INDIA

Brie	fs	
	Cholera Epidemic Reported	9
	Conjunctivitis Virus Isolated	9
	Gastroenteritis Epidemic	9
INDONESIA		
Brie	fs	
	Gastroenteritis in Central Java	10
	Gastroenteritis in Cilegon	10
	Gastroenteritis Expected Again in August	10
	Leprosy in Cipinang	11
MALAYSIA		
Cho1	era Outbreak Reported in Kelantan State (NEW STRAITS TIMES, 8 Aug 81)	12
MOZAMBIQUE		
Brie	-	
Brie	Measles Incidence Rising	13
PAKISTAN		
Brie	fs	
	Cholera Deaths in Okara	14
ROMANIA		
ROTANIA		
Brie	fs	
	Reports of Cholera Deaths	15
SRI LANKA		
Brie		16
	Cholera in Vavuniya Cholera Kills Again	16
	Untreated Water Causes Rise in Hepatitis, Typhoid	16
	Cholera From Kalubowila	17
	Cholera Kills 2 in Plonnaruwa	17
THAILAND		
Brie	fs	
	Venereal Disease Statistics	18
	Parasite Affliction Problem	18
	Malnutrition Rate Among Children	18

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

	Briefs	
	Leprosy Reports	20
	Hepatitis Cases	20
ZIMBA	BWE	
	New Cure for Bilharzia Being Tested	
	(THE HERALD, 15 Sep 81)	21
	ANIMAL DISEASES	
INDON	ESIA	
	Briefs	4
	Septicemia Epizootica in West Lombok	22
MOZAM	BIQUE	
	Foot-and-Mouth Disease Spreads in Large Area	
	(TEMPO, 13 Sep 81)	23
NEW Z	EALAND	
	Scientists Think Fungus Causes Crippling Stock Disease	25
	(PRESS, 25 Aug 81)	25
	PLANT DISEASES AND INSECT PESTS	
USSR		
USSK		
	Briefs	
	Potato Beetles in Rail Cars	26
	More Pótato Beetles Found	26
VIETN	IAM .	
	Briefs	
	Quang Nam-Danang Pests	27
	Vinh Phu Harmful Insects	27
	Ha Tuyen Rice Bugs	27
	Leafhopper Infestation	27
	Thai Binh Insect Eradication	27
	Vinh Phu Insect Infestation	28
	Thai Binh Insect Infestation	28
	Thanh Hoa Insect Control	28
	Ha Son Binh Insect Infestation	28
	Thai Rinh Pest Control	28

DEPLORABLE HEALTH CONDITIONS IN ZAIRE PROVINCE

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 10 Sep 81 p 3

[Excerpt] Directly related to the lack of water in the province of Zaire are its health problems, because without this precious liquid it is very difficult to maintain health conditions at an acceptable level. The situation is further complicated by the fact that the people often resort to small, dubious streams of water. In this area of dense vegetation mosquitoes and the tsetse fly abound.

This last disease, which has been partially eradicated in many provinces, still is a scourge in Zaire, especially in the Mbanza Congo, Kuimba and Noqui municipalities, where more than 200 cases have been detected, despite rather antiquated diagnostic facilities. Other diseases such as malaria, measles and dysentery also continue to claim victims.

The Zaire health infrastructures are still very weak. In the field of health and medical services, only the Soyo and Mbanza Congo municipalities possess hospitals, which, nevertheless, are already unable to respond to the needs of the population in spite of the efforts undertaken. All other municipalities have only medical centers staffed by specialized nurses.

Another factor which contributes to the high mortality rate is the exaggerated credence in witchcraft by part of the population. Only when the witchcraft doctor's resources have been exhausted is the patient taken to the hospital. But this happens when it is generally too late, and the witchcraft doctor has already received 20,000 kwanzas, 12 bottles of (Primus!) beer, clothing, chickens and pigs!

SALMONELLA POISONING TOLL AT 230 IN FOUR STATES

Suspect Salami

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 15 Aug 81 p 3

[Excerpts]

There are now 230 confirmed cases of salmonella poisoning in four States, 127 of them in NSW, and the Victorian Government has ordered the Tabaldi company based in Melbourne, to withdraw two of its brands of salami.

Tests on samples of Tibaldi and Tonitto salami taken from a 21st birthday party in Lecton last weekend were positive. Tonitto is made at the Tibaldi plant. A seven-year-old boy died and more than half the guests at the party suffered food poisoning. At least 127 cases of salmonella bacteria poisoning have been reported in NSW.

A Melbourne man is dangerously ill in Melbourne's Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital with salmonella poisoning. In Perth, a three-year-old girl is in a satisfactory condition.

An outbreak of food poisoning in the Adelaide hills districts of Summertown and Uraidla is almost certainly not linked with the outbreak in NSW and Victoria.

Criticism of Central Funding

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 13 Aug 81 p 2

[Excerpts]

THE salmonella outbreak in Victoria could have been better controlled if there was a centralised system of government funding for preventive medicine, a senior doctor said yesterday.

The head of the microbiological diagnostic unit at Melbourne University. Dr Jocelyn Forsyth, said funding was on "an absolute shoestring." Dr Forsyth's unit has been testing salmonellacontaminated salami, which up until yesterday had claimed 61 confirmed victims.

"There has never been central funding for these types of laboratories," Dr Forsyth said.

"We have never been able to enjoy the luxury of some hospital departments.

This sort of thing is a national function and the people here are working by grace. "The outbreak would have been handled in general." she said.

State Department of Health officials said yesterday they believed all the infected salami had been traced.

The Victorian Opposition spokesman for health, Mr Tom Roper, said yesterday that microbiological testing of all high-risk foods should be introduced.

He said the testing should be introduced with

a compulsory open-date coding system.

At present, Victoria has a voluntary date-marking system only for food.

Lack of National Controls

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 17 Aug 81 p 3

[Text]

THE country's biggest consumer body yesterday blamed lack of national control over food standards for the widespread salmonella poisoning believed caused by contaiminated salami.

A seven-year-old child died in the outbreak and more than 200 people became ill because of the Federal Government's "inexcusable" failure to regulate the food industry, according to the chairman of the Australian Federation of Consumer Organisations, Mr Brendan Pentony.

Mr Pentony has written to. the Minister for Health, Mr MacKellar, calling on the Government to legislate "to the limits of its constitutional power" to impose a national code of food standards to prevent further outbreaks.

He said consumer safety was in the hands of the States or individual manufacturers, which was I wardous, unsafe and unacceptable.

Mr Pentony said the overall standards legislation the federation proposed should include provisions that all packages of food for sale be marked with a legible batch code.

The infected salami, believed to have been manufactured and marketed by Tibaldi Smallgoods Australia Ltd of Victoria, had not been marked with any batch identification, he said.

"As a consequence, all of the salami production of the firm over a defined period is suspect and, in order to protect customers, all needs to be withdrawn from sale," he said.

This clearly imposes a cost on the manufacturers, but more importantly, it delays effective action being taken to protect consomers.

"At the bottom line, it appears that protection of consumers from unsafe food products is a matter left to the individual food manufacturers."

"Cases of salmonella poisoning suspected to have originated from consumption of products of this manufacturer have occurred in places as far afield as Perth. Broken Hill. Cootamurdra; Balranald and Melbourne.

"The product is marketed on a national basis, and clearly, like many other food products, it is one over which the Government has constitutional power to regulate."

He said the Government should implement the National Health and Medical Research Council's food standards and code of practice for food processors and manufacturers as soon as possible.

Eealth department officials in Brisbane yesterday reported finding salmoneila newport bacteria in samples of salami products seized by inspectors over a wide area of the State.

But the State Minister for Health, Mr Austin, said so far there had been no reports of food poisoning caused by the Victorian salami.

In four other States more than 200 cases of salmonella poisoning have been reported, and last week in Leeton, NSW, seven-year-old Dennis Celi died after a party.

Mr Austin said the Tibaldi company had done everything possible to co-operate with the Queensland Government, and primary industry inspectors had visited shops even in the most remote areas to get the salami withdrawn from sale.

Tibaldi withdrew all stocks of uncooked salami from sale in South Australia on Saturday as part of an investigation by the State Central Board of Health into smallgoods.

Check on Food Additives

Melbourne THE AGE in English 18 Aug 81 p 15

[Article by Paul Chadwick]

[Text]

The Victorian Agriculture Department is examining addi-tives used in smallgoods as a possible source of the salmonella outbreak which has affected as many as 265 people in three States.

Imported and local pepper, salts, spices and sugar are among additives being tasted for salmo-nells bacteris nella bacteria.

Scientists searching for the cause of the outbreak have discovered traces of the bacteria in several workers at the Tibaldi salami factory in Coburg.

The director of the Melbourne University's microbiological diag-notic unit, Dr Jocelyn Forsyth, said faecal specimens from about 30 of the Tibaldi staff had been tested and salmonella bacteria had been found in four or five.

The staff were more likely to have become infected rather than nave become infected rather than to have caused the outbreak, he said. None would be allowed to resume work until they were proved free of infection. The exact type of salmonella bacterium and the results of tests on salami brands other than Tibaldi should be known later this week, Dr Forsyth said.

Victorian and salmonella bacteria in another salami type produced by Tiboldi Smallgoods' (Australia) P. Ltd. The pure pork Alpino Francaise Purporc salami was not named in new spaper advertisements last Saturday announcing recall of the company's uncooked salami. The Queensland Health Mini-

ster, Mr Austin, last night urged that the Alpino salami not be sold or eaten. Tibaldi's manager, Mr John Caprioglio, said the advertisement was intended to include all types of uncooked salami and the absence of Alpino, a minor line, had been a slight oversight. He agreed it should be returned and not eaten.

Victorian Agriculture Department tests on swabs taken from machinery at the Tibaldi factory have proved negative, the assistant principal veterinary officer, Dr Bryn Rees, said yesterday. All Victorian and interstate abat-toirs were being checked as pos-sible sources of the salmonella newport bacteria that have infect-ed 98 Victorians and is suspected of having caused illness in 35

Dr Rees said the search was being concentrated on abattoirs in other States because regular checks of all types of animals in Victoria had not revealed the salwhen it had been found in a hippopotamus at Melbourne Zoo. Additives could be infected by birds, cats and mice and other rodents (especially when stored in bulk) or when being transported, he said.

Among the smallgoods additives being checked is one type

ditives being checked is one type of pepper grown in Papua New Gunea, milled in Singapore and sold in Australia, Dr Rees said.

The Federal Department of Primary Industry confirmed yesterday that it was checking the Tibaldi factory's water supply but a spokesman said this was routine. The department also confirmed that part of the estimated

but a spokesman said this was roubise. The department also confirmed that part of the estimated 400 tonnes of suspect Tibaldi salami had been exported to maurituis but that country's Government had been alerted.

The South Australain outbreak of basteria called bovis morbificans, a "first cousin" of salmonella newport, appeared to have been contained, health officials said. Tibaldi's Adelaide plant, which last week was traced as a source of salami that infected up to 20 people has recalled all uncooked salami.

The chairman of the South Australian Central Board of Health. Dr Keith Wilson, said nine of 11 samples of Tibaldi salami had proved negative and tests on other SA manufacturers' products also were negative. "On present evidence it appears that Tibaldi had only one contaminated batch of salami," he said.

IMMUNIZATION LAG--Parents were yesterday criticised for failing to protect their children against measles and other diseases. The Queensland Minister for Health, Mr Austin, said statistics revealed child immunisation against measles had dropped alarmingly. Less than 50 per cent of Australian children were protected against the disease, which was a potential killer. "One out of 10,000 children who contract measles dies from it, brain infection develops in one out of 1000, and up to 5 per cent of children get moderate to severe lung or ear infections," Mr Austin said. Mr Austin also said a survey of 36,602 children conducted by the Queensland Health Department revealed only 89 per cent had received triple antigen against diptheria, tetanus, and whooping cough, [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 21 Aug 81 p 3]

EDITORIAL SPECULATES ON 'MYSTERIOUS JHINJHINA'

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 28 Aug 81 p 5

[Editorial: "Mysterious 'Jhinjhina'"]

[Text] For several weeks now, 'Jhinjhina' has been spreading alarmingly in a number of districts in the country. This strange disease takes on a person with a prickingly painful sensation in the toe which swiftly moves to upper limbs, downing the patient in minutes with a terrific headache and a fit of trembling, accompanied sometimes by hysterical outbursts of laughter. During the first days of its outbreak, some deaths occurred, as the people were then completely taken aback by the peculiar symptoms of the ailment, knowing not what to do. Later, since they developed, through common sense, the combat measures like pouring water profusely, from head to foot, on the patient, death seldom took place. But, theu, the stricken person remains, both physically and mentally, under a benumbing spell of the attack for days.

In the circumstances, wherever this unknown disease appears, the whole population is overtaken by panic. And in the absence of any specific treatment or drug, people are seeking in various ways Providential favour for saving them from the accourge by offering mass prayers and 'Shirmi' (religious feast). There are also different opinions about the causes and treatment of the disease, and it can be said that but for the drenching of waters, nothing particular or scientific has yet been evolved to treat it. It is, however, good that on the directive of health authorities, a team of entomologists in Khulna is investigating whether the disease is insect-borne or what really it is. We believe, the Hinistry of Health also is already seized of the problem.

Referring to the controversy whether 'Jhinjhina' is basically a physical or mental ailment, however, one may venture to say that it could be a combination of both. The history of its entomology suggests so. It visited this country once before towards the end of the Second World War during 1944-45. It was a period when tension of various sorts, high prices, short supplies and adulterated foods had together seriously disturbed the physical and mental state of average men and women in the society. It will be worthwhile to examine the similarities between then and now. Those who do research on the disease may be well-advised to take into account its history.

SATKHIRA 'JHINJHINA' DEATH-Satkhira, Aug. 16—One person died and over 100 others were attacked by a strange disease which is now called Jhinjhina in the Satkhira Subdivision. The disease has spread in an epidemic form and has created panic among the people. The symptoms of the disease are that when a person is affected first his feet become paralysed and then it spreads gradually to other part of the body. According to physicians there is no medical treatment for the disease but they suggested the patients should take baths sitting upright. An old man of the locality told this correspondent that similar disease broke out in the year 1341 BS in an epidemic form. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Aug 81 p 12]

CHOLERA DEATHS REPORTED—Chuadanga, Aug. 19—Death toll in cholera has risen to 13 in villages Thakurpur, Komorpur and Subolpur under Damurhuda PS. Of them nine persons died in Thakurpur village under Kuralgachi union, three in village Komorpur and one died in Subolpur village under Kapashdanga union of Damurhuda PS during last one week. The badly affected villages are Thakurpur, Komorpur, Subolpur, Osmanpur Pirpur Kulla and Kanaidanga where cholera had broken out in epidemic form and 20 more were attacked with the disease. The preventive measure could not yet be taken for want of anti-cholera vaccine in Sanitary department, it is learnt. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Aug 81 p 1]

CONJUNCTIVITIS EPIDEMIC--Viral conjunctivitis or "pink eye" is now raging in Belize on a scale that is epidemic. This is what medical authorities in Belize are now saying. Countrywide statistics are not available, but medical reports say that clinics all over the country have been swarming with people calling for attention. During the whole of this week the clinics in Belize City have been jammed to capacity with people seeking some relief from this mild but irritating infection. In an attempt to prevent further spread of the infection, medical authorities have been appealing to the public to take precautions, the main ones being to avoid touching the eyes and to avoid crowded places. A special appeal has also been made to persons infected to stay at home isolated during the first three days. Medical authorities have warned that re-infection is also possible. "Pink eye" was first detected in Sarteneja and Belize City some three weeks ago. From these places it has now spread to the rest of the country. [Text] [Belize City THE REPORTER in English 30 Aug 81 p 4]

CHOLERA EPIDEMIC REPORTED—Darbhanga, Sept 4 (UNI)—Cholera has broken out in epidemic form in Darbhanga town and claimed form in during the past 24 hours, according to official sources. Civil Surgeon Dr (Mrs) Krishna Rana said that another 100 residents of 11 mohallas of the town had been affected and over two dozen of them admitted to the Darbhanga medical college hospital. Two doctors and two innoculators have been rushed to each of the acutely affected area and 4,000 of vaccine has been sent there, Dr Rana added. She said that all the residents of the Bihar military police area near the town were being innoculated. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Sep 81 p 4]

CONJUNCTIVITIS VIRUS ISOLATED—New Delhi, September 6—The virus responsible for conjunctivitis which assumed an epidemic form in several parts of the country has been isolated by research personnel. This information was conveyed to the parliamentary consultative committee for the health ministry yesterday by the minister, Dr B. Shankaranand. He announced that further studies for characterising the viruses were under way at the National Institute of Virology in Pune and the enterovirus Research Centre in Bombay. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Sep 81 p 12]

GASTROENTERITIS EPIDEMIC--The gastroenteritis toll in the Panihati Kamarhati and Bhatpara areas of 24-Parganas has risen to 14 according to Mr Nami Bhattacharya, West Bengal's Health Minister, in Calcutta on Sunday. So far, over 300 people had contracted the disease in the Bhatpara area, while 46 and 21 cases were reported at Panihati and Kamarhati, respectively. The disease has assumed menacing proportions in the Bhatpara area, where 15 wards were affected. According to the Minister, Health department workers were spraying disinfectants in the affected areas. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Sep 81 p 3]

INDONESIA

BRIEFS

GASTROENTERITIS IN CENTRAL JAVA -- The gastroenteritis epidemic which raged through several areas of Central Java in April peaked again in the middle of last week, particularly in the Majalengka and Bandung Regencies. As of Saturday [20 June] eight persons were recorded as having died of the disease and more than 500 others went to the nearest health posts for examination and where necessary received medical assistance. The public's awareness to seek help immediately at the health command posts aided efforts to prevent the spread of this virulent disease. As of the end of last week 116 victims in the Jatiraga Kampung, Kadipaten Village, Majalengka Regency, were treated at the rehydration post and the Cideres General Hospital. Thirty-four had to be given infusions and three died because they were brought to the health post too late to be saved. In Gunung Anten Kampung, Bantarujeg Village, Majalengka Regency, 99 victims of the disease were recorded. Of these, 51 needed infusions and one person died. By Saturday only one or two persons, mostly children under 5 years of age, were coming to the local health post for treatment. According to the local health service, the disease was spread, among other reasons, by a carrier who contracted the disease during last year's epidemic. Because of poor environmental sanitation and toilet facilities, the carrier's feces polluted the water source and sewage channels, thus spreading the epidemic rapidly. The virulent disease which claimed 70 victims last April and forced hundreds of others in Bandung Regency to seek treatment erupted again in the middle of last week. Three areas of the regency were affected. As of Saturday, 482 cases were recorded, four of them reportedly died. In the light of past experience, the spread of gastroenteritis could have been suppressed in the Bandung Regency. [Excerpt] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 21 Jun 81 pp 1, 10]

GASTROENTERITIS IN CILEGON--Twelve persons have died, 11 are still under treatment at the Serang General Hospital, and 312 persons have been cured following a gastro-enteritis epidemic which has been attacking the Cilegon area, Serang Regency, West Java, since the end of June up to Monday [6 July]. A mass cleanup was sponsored by health clinics and kaporit was added to the people's wells. As of Sunday evening piles of garbage covered with flies were still seen around the Cilegon market, and sidewalk merchants were still selling food there. Therefore it is not surprising that the gastroenteritis epidemic has attacked the Cilegon area. [Excerpts] [Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 6 Jul 81 p 1]

GASTROENTERITIS EXPECTED AGAIN IN AUGUST--Dr Rustandi, chief of the West Java Regional Office of the Department of Health, called on the people of West Java to be prepared to face a possible recurrence of a gastroenteritis epidemic in several

regencies and first class cities after Lebaran in August. Dr Rustandi's call was brought to SINAR HARAPAN's attention on Monday [6 July] in order to keep the public from becoming victims of the killer epidmic which is caused by a way of life that pays little heed to personal health practices and environmental sanitation. According to the records, gastroenteritis is of concern in 10 areas and regencies of West Java: Bandung, Garut, Majalengka, Cirebon, Karawang, Serang, Sumedang, Indranayu, Cianjur, and Pandegelang Regencies. From January to March 1981 (prior to the peak of the epidemic, there were 1,735 cases in these 10 areas, of whom 10 died (0.58 percent). Their number peaked to 6,044 in the April to June period. Of these 129 died (2.13 percent). From January to June 1981 in the 10 areas in which gastroenteritis is of concern, there were 7,799 cases of whom 139 were recorded as having died (1.79 percent). The most deaths from this desease in West Java were recorded in Bandung Regency where 66 of the 1,241 victims died. Karawang Regency followed Bandung Regency with 29 deaths out of a total of 1,059 cases. Cianjur Regency and Majalengka Regency had the fewest cases, with three deaths out of a total of 649 cases and four deaths out of a total of 302 cases, respectively. [Excerpts] [Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 10 Jul 81 p 3]

LEPROSY IN CIPINANG--Between 10 and 20 inhabitants of the Cipinang Besar Village of East Jakarta are in a sad state because they have been attacked by a certain disease. One has died and another, an elementary school pupil, had to be taken out of school. They are believed to have leprosy. On Tuesday [7 July] three young girls were taken by ambulance to the Sitanala Hospital, Tangerang, an institution specializing in the treatment of leprosy. These children unknowingly have been suffering from the disease for about a year. Their bodies are almost covered with lesians. The Tember family, who live at RT 014/03, were struck by the same catastrophe. One of their children died of the disease some time ago, and before dying spread the disease to the mother and to an older brother. Mrs Tember's hands and feet are swollen and lesions have appeared on them. The fingers of their daughter, Guni (20 years old) who has a family, are eaten away. At least one joint of each of four of her toes is gone. When asked about the symptoms of the disease, Dr Marthin Bimbuaian explained that well-defined, small pocks or swellings appear on the skin. He added that ther is little chance that the leprosy will spread. It only occurrs through imate contact with the victim. A clear indication of the disease is direct. that one feels no pain when a needle is stuck into the pocked areas, Dr Marthin said. The doctor claimed leprosy is caused by the "Cornei bacterium," but the "Encyclopedia Britannica" says the disease is caused by the "Mycrobacterium leprae." Dr Marthin is convinced that no leprosy epidemic has occurred in Cipinang Besar Village. [Excerpts] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 8 Jul 81 pp 1, 12]

CHOLERA OUTBREAK REPORTED IN KELANTAN STATE

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Aug 81 p 8

[Text]

KOTA BARU, PH. - A father and son are the latest choiera victims while a newly identified carrier had left Kelantan for Kuala Lumpur.

State Director of Health and Medical Services Dr Jones Varughese said today the ailments of a 58-year-old man and his 19-year-old son from Jalan Pengkalan Chepa here were confirmed as cholera cases late yesterday. They had earlier been admitted for tests and

admitted for tests and laboratory results proved conclusive.

A carrier, a girl student of the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, has returned to the university. Health and university authorities have been informed to send her to hospital for treatment. treatment.

Dr Varughese said there were now 13 car-riers, including the girl, all in the Kota Baru district, and eight con-firmed cases (six in Kota

Baru, one in Pasir Mas and one in Machang).

He warned the public that cholers was listed as one of the six most dangerous infectious dis-eases by WHO and could kill if treatment was not sought.

Anyone with diarrhoea should seek immediate treatment. They should drink only boiled water and properly cooked food.

Dr Varughese said his department was monitor-ing the situation and many officers had had their Hari Rays leave cancelled.

However, there was no cause for alarm.

The department, he said, would check water supply sources and would chlorinate wells and

teach villagers how to chlorinate them. If there was no water source, the department would call for PWD tankers to supply treated

Water. The cholers ward in the General Hospital here has nearly 50 pa-tients including eight confirmed cases, 12 car-riers, and the rest diarrhoes cases admitted as a precautionary meas-

MOZAMB IQUE

BRIEFS

MEASLES INCIDENCE RISING--The number of children affected by measles has been rising in Maputo since last August in spite of the efforts carried out by the city's health department to combat the outbreak. Igrejas Campos, public health officer for Maputo, stated that more than 130 cases of measles were registered last month. The measles vaccination program has been reinforced and it is expected that the outbreak will end by the end of the year. Igrejas Campos stressed that the Organization of Mozambican Women must support this campaign within the framework of the agreement signed between this democratic mass organization and the Ministry of Health. [Text] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portugese 17 Sep 81 p 2]

CSO: 5400/56-6

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

CHOLERA DEATHS IN OKARA--Okara, Sep 14: Cholera is stated to have broken out in the area and 10 persons, including six children and three women, were reported to have died of this epidemic in two villages during the last 48 hours. The people have expressed grave concern over the situation and called upon the authorities concerned to take immediate and effective steps to control this epidemic.--PPI [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 15 Sep 81 p 7]

REPORTS OF CHOLERA DEATHS—German tourists vacationing in Romania, in the Neptun and Eforie resorts on the Black Sea coast, have contacted their families in the FRG, requesting cholera vaccine immediately. In this way it was learned that during the week of 17-23 August about 1,000 people had serious intestinal disorders. German doctors who were among the tourists diagnosed the illnesses as cholera and alerted the health services in Constanta which, however, did not want to acknowledge that there was a cholera epidemic. Also, they refused to inform the population about this calamity. All the symptoms of the persons affected leave no doubt but that it is cholera. Tourists say, on the basis of information from a reliable source, that five Romanians died in the Constanta hospital. Foreign enterprises operating in Romania with personnel brought in by them have requested that the authorities in their countries send them cholera vaccine immediately since this vaccine is not available in pharmacies in Romania. [Text] [Paris BULETIN DE INFORMATIF PENTRU ROMANI IN EXIL in Romanian 16 Sep 81 p 1]

CHOLERA IN VAVUNIYA--Eleven suspected cholera patients are being treated at the Vavuniya hospital, Police reports said yesterday. Over the past two weeks cholera claimed one life while two other suspected cases were reported from Kegalle and Hingurakgoda districts. [Text] [Colombo SUN in English 26 Aug 81 p 1]

CHOLERA KILLS AGAIN--Batticaloa: A suspected cholera patient transferred to the Batticaloa Provincial Hospital from Eravur died three days after admission after having been treated for diarrhoea. It is reported that the RMP, Eravur transferred a patient to Batticaloa Provincial hospital which was said to be a querried case of cholera last week. The patient was admitted to the Medical Ward of the hospital by the admitting Officer, as this patient was brought by an ambulance, with a note to the effect that this patient was transferred from Eravur. The transfer form too was affixed to the bed head ticket of the patient as a routine formality. This patient died after three days treatment for diarrhoea. [Text] Colombo SUN in English 4 Sep 81 p 10]

UNTREATED WATER CAUSES RISE IN HEPATITIS, TYPHOID—With no improvement shown in the quality of water supplied to the city, the Public Health Department of the Colombo Municipality yesterday requested City Mayor Sirisena Cooray to take the matter up with Local Government Minister R. Premadasa. Officials of the CMC said yesterday that a full report on the existing situation was forwarded to the Mayor. Despite more chlorination by the Water Supply and Drainage Board, water supplied to the city still carries, in it faecal matter and other impurities officials of the CMC added. Giving rise to an increased incidence of hepatitis and typhoid in the city a fair quantity of the inadequately treated water is being supplied to the Kotahena, Grandpass, Mahawatte, and Gintupitiya areas. According to officials of the Water Supply and Drainage Board six million gallons of water pumped from the Kelani river is supplied to the city, with no treatment except chlorination as the Ambatale treatment plant can cope with only 40 million gallons. [Text] [Colombo SUN in English 26 Aug 81 p 3]

CHOLERA FROM KALUBOWILA--A suspected case of cholera was reported from the Colombo South Hospital on Wednesday. The patient, who was admitted in the morning with diarrhoea died in the evening. The body was buried the next day after a post-mortem examination. Health authorities said that all preventive measures had been taken both in the hospital and the neighbourhood in Kalubowila where the patient lived. [Text] [Columbo THE CEYLON DAILY NEWS in English 22 Aug 81 p 1]

CHOLERA KILLS 2 IN FOLONNARUWA--A minor outbreak of cholera was reported from the Polonnaruwa district last week with two deaths. Dr. Tudor Silva, Deputy Director of Public Health, said yesterday that all precautions had been taken to prevent the spread of the disease. Dr. Ranjan Silva of the Health Department's Epidemniological Unit, who visited Polonnaruwa has reported that there are nine positive cases in the hospital. [Text] [Colombo THE CEYLON DAILY NEWS in English 27 Aug 81 p 4]

VENEREAL DISEASE STATISTICS—Venereal disease statistics for 1980 of the Venereal Disease Division, Department of Communicable Disease, which were collected by venereal disease treatment centers run by government teams, show that the contraction rate for venereal disease of all types rose to 742 cases per 100,000 of the population. Gonorrhea was found most commonly. Next came non-specific urethritis, chancroid and syphilis. Those who came for treatment were male over female at a rate of 3 to 1. About 83.9 percent of the 362,700 infected people who came for treatment were working age people from 15 to 29. Their professions were found to be: laborers—80,471; government workers—64,478; women with specialty jobs [JPRS note: prostitutes]—54,262; students—50,516; housewives—34,988; farmers—33,684; businessmen—26,522; other—17,779. [Text] [Bangkok PATINYA in Thai 6 Jul 81 p 42] 8149

PARASITE AFFLICTION PROBLEM -- Dr Anon Prathatsunthasan, vice president of the Society for Parasitology and Tropical Medicine of Thailand, revealed that the Thai people are heavily afflicted with parasites. An average of 60 percent of the people or about 27 million people are affected. This is a public health problem and causes great economic losses. Dr Anon reported that the Thai people are very much afflicted with parasites especially in the countryside because public hygiene is still not adequate. The symptoms of this disease are not as visible as those of some other diseases, but it is just as serious because it weakens the health of the people. It causes the body to grow weak and lose efficiency in work. It lessens the body's resistance to disease allowing disease to spread until death occurs. With a situation like this there are apt to be economic losses for the country amounting to many hundred millions of baht, which will affect the security of the nation as well. For this reason the Society for Parasitology and Tropical Medicine of Thailand has a policy for combating and eradicating parasites and is trying to carry it out now. It is prepared to arrange funding for significant action to control parasites. [Text] [Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 8 Apr 81 p 3] 8149

MALNUTRITION RATE AMONG CHILDREN--The Institute for Nutrition Research of Mahidon University has revealed research results showing that more than 55,000 Thai children under 5 years of age are dying each year from malnutrition and related diseases. There are nearly 4.2 million children suffering from incipient, medium and serious malnutrition, especially protein and mineral deficiency. In percentage terms, 60 percent of the children throughout the country are affected. "Most of the sick and dying children are in the Northeast." The Institute for

Nutrition Research pointed out that the important causes of this problem were poverty and ignorance of nutrition. The children suffering from malnutrition who do not die do not develop well and become feeble-minded burdens on society because it is at age 5-6 that a child's brain develops the most. In addition malnutrition lowers the body's defenses against disease, and they become susceptible to contagious diseases such as diarrhea, typhoid and parasites etc. [Excerpt] [Bangkok SIAH BAT in Thai 24 Feb 81 pp 1, 12] 8149

LEPROSY REPORTS--Dr Muhammad Rif'at, skin diseases specialist at Al-Kuwayti Hospital in Umm Al-Qaywayn, has said that foreign workers--who constitute 80 percent of the hospital's patients--suffer from various infectious diseases, including leprosy. He said that leprosy is new to the area and that foreign workers are playing a large part in spreading it. [Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 20 Sep 81 p 2 GF]

HEPATITIS CASES--Dr Salah Sayr al-Din, a consultant in internal medicine at Al-Kuwayti Hospital in Umm Al-Qaywayn, has said that hepatitis--which appeared recently among employees of foreign companies in Al-Shariqah has suddenly spread among foreign workers in Umm Al-Qaywayn. He said that most of those who have contracted the disease work in restaurants and private homes. Therefore, there is danger of the infection spreading. [Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 20 Sep 81 p 1 GF]

NEW CURE FOR BILHARZIA BEING TESTED

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 15 Sep 81 p 5

[Text] The Blair Research Laboratory in Salisbury is testing a new cure for bilharzia, which affects up to 90 percent of children in Zimbabwe's worst-hit areas.

Every lake, except a few in layanga, most rivers, canals and more than 10 000 small dams contain bilharms.

The new drug is taken in one dosage of pills and could cost \$5. Tests on animals began in 1976 and are now completed:

Miss Alison Creasey, a member of the research team, said testing began a month ago and 23 patients had been treated. No serious side-effects have been reported although the researchers cannot tell if the patients are completely cured yet.

About 200 hillsards

About 200 bilharria patients will try the drug, which still has to be registered here.

Some of the advantages of the drug are that it has few side-effects and does not cause cancer.

It cures both urinary and bowel bilharma. Miss Creasey said the number of people with the disease varied from area to area according to the water system in use, People living near an irrigation scheme or lakes were prope to bilharma.

In the rural areas it was difficult to diarnose as there were no laboratory facilities at many clinics. Only urmany bil-

harria could be identified while laboratory tests could inficate both types of the disease.

The new German drug, Prazinuantel, has been tested in Japan, South America and parts of Africa.

Africa.

At present in Zimbabwe there is a drug to cure urinary bilharnia which is cheap and pills are taken for a month. The cure for bowel bilharnia is expensive but the dosage in taken over two days.

Symptome of the disease include thredness and stomach achea. The disease affects the digestive tract and bladder and complications include chronic ulcers and serious kidney, liver and spleen damage.

Theodor Bilharz, a German doctor, discovered the cause of the disease, a worm, in the liver of 'a dead Egyptian in 1851.

Blair Research Laboratory has begun a country-wide prevalence survey. Miss Creasey said that the laboratory did not have any up-to-date national statistics on the number of people infected and the areas where the disease was rampant.

The survey will take a few years to complete.

SEPTICEMIA EPIZOOTICA IN WEST LOMBOK -- The northern part of West Lombok Regency, which includes the subdistricts of Tanjung, Gangga, and Bayan, is being attacked by a contagious cattle disease. The West Lombok regent has issued a decision on the control and prevention of this disease in cattle in the West Lombok region, particularly in the northern part of the region. In addition, traffic of cattle is temporarily prohibited in the northern part of the West Lombok region until this disease is declared to be eradicated. In the consideration of the decision, it is stated that SE is a very dangerous disease and it is necessary to control and prevent the spread of the disease immediately through vaccination and treatment in all of the northern portion of the West Lombok region. The decision states that a further attempt to control and prevent the disease will be to close the area to the movement of cattle in and out of the area, particularly of cattle from the northern portion of the West Lombok region, and also to limit the movement of cattle in the northern portion of West Lombok and to isolate sick cattle or those believed to be suffering from the disease. According to Eng Wijaya, chief of the Level II Animal Husbandry Service of West Lombok, SE vaccinations were given to 85,572 cloven-hoofed cattle in the West Lombok region last year and 1,840 animals were vaccinated in the northern portion of West Lombok. [Text] [Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 30 Jun 81 p 3] 6804

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE SPREADS IN LARGE AREA

Maputo TEMPO in Portuguese No 570, 13 Sep 81 pp 32-33

[Excerpts] While we were driving toward the Mangondzo communal village in the Mapulanguene locality, 135 kms from the district seat of Magude, our guide explained to us the evils of foot-and-mouth disease affecting the livestock in this area.

We had to stop quite frequently to let the animals go by. Many of them have been affected by this disease. They are therefore very thin, because they cannot eat.

Foot-and-mouth disease is attacking the herds in the districts of Magude and Moamba. According to information gathered locally, the disease first appeared in Macaene, a locality of Mapulanguene, and spread to other areas, as is the case in some zones of Moamba, since Macane (Magude) borders the district of Moamba.

Other areas on the border with South Africa have also been affected by foot-and-mouth disease. The first operation to isolate this epidemic bore little fruit, and the disease went through the barrier, reaching the Chibuane, Moine and Messa areas.

In Moamba, the disease spread as far as the locality of Sabie. Ressano Garcia is another area also affected by the epidemic. The disease reaches this locality because livestock bought in the locality of Sabie was transported there before the disease was detected. At this time, however, the situation is stationary in this locality.

Another motive for the spread of the epidemic is the drought that has affected the country for a long time. In the face of a scarcity of pasture lands, herds often walk long distances in search of food or water, thus transmitting the disease, which is highly contagious.

Information gathered from animal husbandry officials shows that there are no diagnostic measures to cure this disease. Even with the use of preventive measures—vaccination—there is always a margin of danger for the livestock to contract the disease.

At this time, besides vaccinating annials in areas not yet affected by foot-and-mouth disease, one of the measures against this epidemic has been to isolate affected herds. An intensive mobilization campaign has been conducted among the population so that herds will not be transported to other areas. Still another measure is the disinfection

- the means a ranspart tion, which must perforce circulate in those areas, a sale as at a people shows. As for the affected animals, little can be done to descript an addition to the sores that develop in the mouth and houses.
- that the lite of mortality is nil because of the resistance of the resistance of the stock fold in our country. This is not true with anilils that import is

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SCIENTISTS THINK FUNGUS CAUSES CRIPPLING STOCK DISEASE
Christchurch PRESS in English 25 Aug 81 p 2
[Text]

h Hamilfon Scientists have made a breakthrough in one of New Zealand's most troublesome stock diseases.

stock diseases.
Ryegrass staggers, the crippling disease which affects sheep and cattle throughout New Zealand in the autumn, is probably caused by a seed-borne fungus which grows within the common ryegrass plant, it has been announced.

Two Department of Scientific and Industrial Research scientists at Lincoln College. Dr Euan Vartha and Mr Lester Fletcher, said that the discovery of the probable link between the fungus, lolium epiphyte, and ryegrass

staggers opined up new avenues of research into the

The acting director at Ruakura Animal Research Station. Mr Archie Campbell. has welcomed the new development but said that much work had to be done to prove the connection between ryegrass staggers and lolium epiphyte.

lolium epiphyte.

If that were proved he said it was probable that a simple seed treatment to kill the fungus could be devised to prevent the outbreak of the disease in newly sown pastures.

POTATO BEETLES IN RAIL CARS-Imatra (STT)-A dead potato beetle in an oil puddle in the doorway of a freight car gave rise to a stricter than usual inspection of the train arriving at Imatrankoski from the Soviet Union. The inspection, which was made on Priday, led to the shipping of 46 empty cars back across the border to Svetogorsk. Station master Erkki Tuovinen said that the beetle was found during an ordinary technical inspection. When beetles were found during a thorough inspection of two more cars, the matter was reported to Imatra health officials, After the investigation, permission was requested of the Railroad Administration to send the 46 empty cars back to Svetogorsk. The train left the station on its return journey Friday. A couple of weeks ago potato beetles were found on a train that had arrived in Joensuu from the Soviet Union via Imatrankoski. According to Tuovinen, since then they have inspected cars at the station more thoroughly than usual. "We cannot start disinfecting cars since anywhere from 120 to 160 empty cars a day arrive in Imatrankoski from Svetogorsk. It being the harvest season, it is precisely during harvest time that these cars carry potatoes and other root vegetables, not only in the Soviet Union, but in Romania too," Tuovinen said, [Text] [Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 16 Aug 81 p 7] 11466

MORE POTATO HERTLES FOUND-Lappeenranta (HS)-Dreaded potato beetles have again been found in freight cars arriving from the Soviet Union. In connection with a technical inspection about 10 dead yellow and black beetles were found in two freight cars at the border station of Vainikkala near Lappeenranta. The cars were stopped in Vainikkala where, however, after being thoroughly cleaned, they were again allowed to move on. The last time potato beetles were found was on Friday in Imatrankoski. At that time the whole train, 46 cars altogether, were sent back across the border to Svetogorsk. Department head Jorma Rautapaa of the Farm Administration Plant Inspection Bureau said that in cooperation with the Railroad Administration they are trying to tighten controls over beetles. Since it is absolutely impossible for the State Railways (VR) to inspect cars at border stations because of the large number of cars involved, instructions are sent to Pinnish recipients of the cars on the procedures to be followed if potato beetles are found in the cars. What is primarily involved is the burning of the refuse collected in connection with the beetles and cleaning of the cars. Rautapaa said that the VR has no clear idea of how many beetles enter with railroad cars from the Soviet Union. Before, they were chiefly found in connection with potato and vegetable shipments. But now dead beetles have been found in empty cars on several occasions. [Text] [Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 20 Aug 81 p 7] 11466

QUANG NAM-DANANG PESTS--Summer-fall rice and 10th-month rice in Quang Nam-Danang Province have been ravaged by harmful insects, especially tea-seed bugs. Thanks to effective control methods, within only a short period of time peasants in the province caught tens of thousands of rats and saved more than 1,000 hectares of rice from pest infestation. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 6 Sep 81 BK]

VINH PHU HARMFUL INSECTS--Harmful insects, especially brown leafhoppers, have ravaged 33,000 hectares or 50 percent of 10th-month rice in Vfnh Phu Province. The provincial vegetation control station has sent cadres, 60 tons of insecticides and other equipment to various districts to help peasants eradicate the insects. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 8 Sep 81 BK]

HA TUYEN RICE BUGS--Since late August some 5,000 hectares of 10th-month rice in Bac Quang district, Ha Tuyen, have been ravaged by bugs and chlorosis. The district has sent more than 100 cadres to the afflicted villages to supervise control efforts. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 9 Sep 81 BK]

LEAFHOPPER INFESTATION--At present some 60,000 hectares of early and main 10th-month rice in former Zone 4, lowland and midland provinces of Bac Bo are infested with brown leafhoppers at a critical level. The steering committees for leafhopper control at the provincial to the district and village level in Hai Hung, Thai Binh, Haiphong, Thanh Hoa, Ha Son Binh and Vinh Phu have been working actively. Efforts to control leafhoppers have generally brought about good results. In many localities, the rice plants have recovered and are blossoming or forming grains. The Ministry of Agriculture has urged all localities to continue with their control efforts and prevent another leafhopper outbreak between 20 and 25 September. [Text] [BK101311 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 9 Sep 81]

THAI BINH INSECT ERADICATION--Thai Binh Province has thus far saved 17,000 hectares of rice from being destroyed by insects. Various insect eradication teams in the province are using lanterns as a means to trap insect larvae in addition to the use of various kinds of chemicals to kill brown leafhoppers and young stem borers. The spreading of insects of age groups 1 and 2 in 3,100 hectares of rice has been brought under control. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 12 Sep 81 BK]

VINH PHU INSECT INFESTATION--More than 33,000 hectares of 10th-month rice in Vinh Phu Province have been saved from being destroyed by insects. It is reported that over the past 20 days, many species of insects harmful to 10th-month rice have been found in Vinh Phu. The provincial people's committee and the provincial agricultural office have quickly instructed localities to take necessary countersteps. Hundreds of thousands of people in 13 districts have been mustered to eradicate insects. Some 55 tons of insecticide, 61 tons of diesel oil, 5 tons of gasoline and 100 pumps have been distributed to various localities for the above purpose. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 12 Sep 81 BK]

THAI BINH INSECT INFESTATION--As of 15 September, Thai Binh Province had saved 24,000 hectares of 10th-month rice from being ravaged by harmful insects and blight. Along with the control of these insects, cooperatives in the province are now mobilizing youths and teenagers to protect some 6,000 hectares of ripening rice against rats. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Sep 81 BK]

THANH HOA INSECT CONTROL—Thanks to combined efforts by all sectors and units concerned, Thanh Hoa Province has been able to save 26,400 hectares of rice from being destroyed by brown leafhoppers. The provincial agricultural sector has sent 650 plant-protection cadres to various districts to guide cooperatives and their members in eliminating leafhoppers. The province has also provided 65 tons of insecticide, 40 tons of oil, 4 tons of gasoline and 160 sprayers for the control of these insects. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 14 Sep 81 BK]

HA SON BINH INSECT INFESTATION—More than 7,000 hectares of 10th-month rice in Ha Son Binh Province have been ravaged by leafhoppers. In addition to the adoption of many effective countermeasures, the provincial vegetation protection station has mobilized all available insecticide sprayers to stamp out these insects in heavily affected localities. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 Sep 81 BK]

THAI BINH PEST CONTROL—More than 24,000 hectares of both the early and main rice crops in Thai Binh Province are being ravaged by brown leafhoppers, stem borers and army worms. From 16 to 18 September, cooperative members, youths, teenagers and students throughout the province took to the fields in a concerted drive to catch caterpillars and stamp out insects. The Thai Binh Agricultural Supplies Corporation has also sent more than 800 portable insecticide sprayers, 50 motorized sprayers, 20 tons of oil and 40 tons of various insecticides to help peasants control the insects. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 Sep 81 BK]

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8 October 1981